



THE NEXT AGRICULTURAL FORECAST WILL BE AUGUST 29TH

Climate summary for the week ending 8am August 22, 2011

Temperatures averaged above normal, averaging 72 degrees north, 74 degrees central, and 76 degrees south. Extremes were 89 degrees at New Brunswick and Freehold on August 18, 2011 and August 20, 2011, and 57 degrees at Charlotteburg and Newton on August 21, 2011.

Weekly rainfall averaged 2.51 inches north, 3.41 inches central, and 2.09 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 4.45 inches at Long Branch on August 21, 2011 to August 22, 2011.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 98 percent north, 95 percent central, and 92 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 73 degrees north, 76 degrees central and 79 degrees south.

Rainfall Hampers Fieldwork

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, August 21, 2011 were 3.5. Topsoil moisture was rated as 60% adequate and 40% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 75% adequate and 25% surplus. Pasture and Range condition was rated at 5% poor, 35% fair, 55% good, and 5% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall during the week in all localities. Temperatures were above normal across the Garden State.

Farming activity throughout the week was limited due to rainfall leaving fields waterlogged. Fieldwork continued where permitted. Crop conditions rated mostly good for early-planted corn and soybeans. Producers continued chopping corn stalks for silage. Hay fields experienced sufficient regrowth for third-cuttings. Fungal disease pressure increased from excess moisture on fruit and vegetable crops. Summer-vegetable harvesting progressed for cantaloupes, carrots, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, sweet corn, and tomatoes. Other activities included spraying fungicides, transplanting and replanting vegetable crops, harvesting fruit, and livestock care.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, August 22, 2011

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures				Growing Degree Days ¹		Soil Moisture ²
	Last Week	Since March 1		Last Week				Total	Dept.*	
		Total	Dept.*	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*			
	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Base 50° F</i>	<i>Base 50° F</i>	<i>Percent</i>
North										
Belvidere Bridge ³	2.17	29.44	6.44	85	58	70	1	2,040	14	100
Canoe Brook ³	2.78	31.07	6.94	86	62	73	3	2,482	446	100
Charlotteburg	2.40	42.78	18.41	85	57	71	4	2,283	673	100
Flemington	2.59	35.61	12.34	86	58	73	2	2,598	509	100
Newton	2.63	33.79	11.31	82	57	72	4	2,359	508	100
Central										
Freehold	4.51	32.83	10.15	89	60	73	2	2,722	497	100
Long Branch	5.86	36.83	13.94	82	63	72	0	2,524	377	100
New Brunswick	2.38	30.72	7.88	89	61	74	1	2,736	421	100
Toms River ³	1.09	22.16	-1.37	86	61	74	3	2,554	425	97
Trenton	3.23	29.09	7.37	88	63	76	3	2,999	580	100
South										
Cape May C.H. ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Downstown ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hammonton ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pomona	1.98	21.39	0.80	86	62	76	5	3,011	768	69
Seabrook ³	2.19	33.93	13.42	87	64	77	4	3,070	633	93
South Harrison ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Departure from normal.

¹Growing degree days since March 1, 2011, total and departure from normal or long term average.

²Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

³Data not available for all historic comparisons.

Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report

Although July 2011 was the hottest month ever in New Jersey, August is shaping up as the wettest ever. Hot and stressful July growing conditions caused pollination issues and growth problems. Hard rains this past week are causing some shelf-life and quality issues; especially with tomatoes. With cooler temperatures prevalent for the next couple of days, things should dry out without encouraging too many problems with fungal and bacterial problems that can occur with high temperatures and wetness. This week's temperatures should be seasonal after tomorrow, in the mid 80's.

Please let me know how I can make this report of more use to you. Feel free to respond to William.walker@ag.state.nj.us at any time if you have questions or need more information about Jersey Fresh availability.

Bill Walker – NJ Dept. of Agriculture

AVAILABILITY FOR AUGUST 22, 2011

ARUGULA	Harvesting a fair quantity of good quality product. Supply will ramp up in a few weeks.
BABY SPINACH & ARUGULA	Harvesting very good quality in good volume.
BASIL	Harvesting a good volume of excellent quality product.
BEETS	Harvesting good quality product in fair quantity.
CABBAGE	Harvesting good quality product in fair volume.
CANTALOUPE & MELONS	Harvesting good quality in light quantity right now. Expect another bit of volume over the next several weeks for the Labor Day marketplace.
CILANTRO	A fair volume of good quality product is harvesting.
COLLARDS	Harvesting very good quality product in fair to good volume.
CUCUMBERS	Harvesting light quantities of very good product as we're between plantings right now. Supply should start to ramp up in a few weeks.
DANDELIONS	Good quality Italian & San Pasquale varieties harvesting in fair volume.
DILL	Harvesting good quality in light quantity.
EGGPLANT	Harvesting good quality in fair to good supplies. Hot and stressful July growing conditions caused some pollination and growth problems.
ESCAROLE & ENDIVE	Harvesting good quality products in light volume. Doesn't like hot temperatures and volume decreases during the Summer heat. Volume will return w/ the cooler weather in mid-September.
KALE	Good quality product harvesting in fair volume.
LEEKs	A fair volume of good quality harvesting.
MINT	Very good quality harvesting in good volume.
NECTARINES	Harvesting a light to decreasing supply of Fantasia variety fruit which is known for its high color and excellent eating quality. The season should finish up over the next two weeks. Good sizing of 2 1/2" primarily.
PARSLEY	Harvesting a light to fair volume of good quality product.
PEACHES	Harvesting a good supply of excellent quality Cresthaven, Jersey Queen, Encore, & Laurel yellow freestone varieties. Lady Nancy and Sugar Giant white peaches in good volume. Brix levels are high due to our early hot and dry weather, so sweetness is ensured. Sizing and quality are excellent.
PEPPERS	Harvesting fair to good quality product in fair supply. Hot and stressful July growing conditions caused some pollination and growth problems. Hard rains last week will also result in some quality issues.
RADISHES	Doesn't like the hot temperatures and volume fades during the Summer heat. Will return with the cooler weather in mid-September.
SPINACH	A light volume of good quality product. Didn't like the record hot July temperatures as volume always decreases during the heat.
SQUASH	Harvesting fair quantities of good quality yellow/zucchini as some are between plantings. Excessive July heat caused pollination & growth issues.
SWEET CORN	Harvesting great quality in good supply.
SWISS CHARD	Harvesting very good quality product in light to fair volume.
TOMATOES	Harvesting variable quality product in fair volume as there's a shortage now due to two reasons. Hot and stressful July growing conditions caused pollination issues, blossom burn off, and problems w/ fruit growth. Hard rains this past week caused ripe fruit to take up too much water and resulted in some quality issues. More supply in a week or so.
TURNIPS	Doesn't like the hot temperatures and volume fades during the Summer heat. Will return with the cooler weather in mid-September.
WHITE POTATOES	Harvesting mainly round white varieties, with some Yukon Gold, Redskin varieties, and a bit of Russets as well.

FORECAST

LETTUCES	Recent heavy rains have caused some newer plantings to be washed out. A clearer picture of the extent of this problem is being determined. There may be a shortage of product when it is time to harvest in mid-September.
SWEET POTATOES	Should begin harvesting in mid-September.